

Fairfield Warde High School

May 31, 2024

Dear 2024 – 2025 Advanced Placement Literature Students:

Welcome to AP Literature. The following is the list of required summer reading, viewing, and writing assignments. These assignments are designed to prepare students for the kind of work we will do in AP Literature. They each offer overarching ideas for the course content. This coming year, we will also apply various critical theories to these works in order to explore the ways such lenses affect our interpretation and understanding of texts.

Part A: Reading:

Students will read/interpret a novel, a play, and one film. The rationale for each is articulated below the title. The theme of Advanced Placement Literature is “The Quest for Meaning” and the following works should offer much to ponder, as well as provide a touchstone to draw from throughout the year.

- ***One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967) by Gabriel García Márquez - (fiction)**

This is, still, an amazingly groundbreaking novel. It captures the history of its author, the country in which he lived (Colombia), as well as the metaphoric history of humanity. Its writing style is the genre of magical realism. Find credible research about this literary style. At its core, AP Literature is the study of how literature is the repository of human thinking, philosophy, and experience. Essentially, the arts reflect what we have thought and believed about the world and ourselves. Also, we will use this novel as a starting point for understanding the various literary theories we will work with during the year.

As you read this novel, consider the following and find related textual evidence:

- the notion of an Edenic state
- archetypal imagery and concepts
- destruction, creation, and duality
- the power of naming
- the weaving of the magical with history, mythology, and politics
- the relationship among the past, present, and future
- linear time versus non-linear time

- ***Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles - (fiction)**

In your AP Google Classroom, there is a digital copy of the play. In order to aid you in reading closely and critically, we ask that you highlight key passages and also use the comment feature to chronicle insights:

- important quotations
- insightful questions (yours)
- meaningful connections
- thoughtful comments

According to music historian Dr. Lily King, “*Oedipus Rex* is about the inevitability of fate; the characters hope to escape their tragic ends, but their very actions bring those ends closer. *Oedipus Rex* does not build its sense of drama through surprise, but rather through the tragedy of watching the characters careen toward their foregone conclusions.”

Part B: Viewing:

- ***Birdman: or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)* (2014) – film, R. This can also be found on Google Classroom under the topic “Films/Documentaries” and on Netflix, Amazon, and at your local library**

A film about an older superhero actor who tries to revive his career on Broadway as a “serious actor.” “It is rated R for language throughout, some sexual content and brief violence.”

However, all are fairly minimal. If you have any reservations, please email your teacher; email addresses are at the end of the letter.

Part C: Writing: Exploratory Essay, 3 Viewing Journal Responses, and 2 Annotation Systems:

The writing assignments are designed to help you articulate your thoughts with clarity and depth. Use your own mind to arrive at an understanding of these texts, not reading aids like SparkNotes. Remember, the theme of the course is “The Quest for Meaning” - the quest to understand must be your own – through analysis, reflection, and dialogue.

Please adhere to length requirements, and be DISCO:

DEVELOPED INSIGHTFUL SPECIFIC CLEAR ORGANIZED

Adhere to the following when preparing your writing assignments. The tone of these responses may be fairly informal and personal (avoid superfluous use of the first person). We will be looking at the following in your writing:

- clarity
- effective use of personal voice/tone
- thoughtfulness, level of insight
- quality of connections
- effective integration of direct passages/specific examples from texts
- cohesiveness
- grammar, mechanics, and usage

Page requirements are listed for each assignment. Follow these requirements for ALL WRITING:

- **SINGLE spacing**
- **12 point, Times New Roman font (or something similar in size and readability) NOT Ariel 12pt.**
- **Standard margins – one inch on ALL four sides**
- **MLA citation format**

Write in the Google Document provided in the posted assignment in Google Classroom. **Be sure to use the document in Google Classroom . You must write in the template.** AI has made it significantly more difficult for teachers to vet the authenticity of students' writing. The purpose of writing responses in the linked document is that it allows teachers to see if anything was cut and pasted as well as using tools such as "Draftback." **To be clear, you must write the response in the document provided.** The template is in Google Classroom as an "assignment." Not following this clear directive will place the validity of student work in question. Use *your* mind.

The Exploratory Essay, 4 Viewing Journal Responses (and OHYoS and Oedipus Rex Annotation Systems) should be posted to Google Classroom in their respective "Assignments."

Graded Annotation Systems:

One Hundred Years of Solitude

- o If you use a school copy, mark significant quotes/passages with Post-Its and/or keeping notes and quotes in a Google Doc.
- o Additionally, you may want to make a map to keep all of the characters, places, etc. for *One Hundred Years of Solitude*,
- o If you purchase the novel, write in it.
- o You have been provided a Google doc of *Oedipus Rex*, so use the highlight and comment features for your reading annotation. Be sure to read over the *Oedipus Rex*: Terms and Note-Taking Guide before you begin reading the play.

Please do not go overboard with the Systems. Simply note: key quotes/lines, significant details and raise insights, connections, and questions. *We want you to read closely and critically.*

Be sure to enroll in your respective sections before the end of the 2024/25 school year:

Dr. Faber: **Class Code: qsjuxd3**

Ms. Landowne: **Class Code: p44g7x7**

Post ALL assignments to Google Classroom by/before FRIDAY, AUGUST 16th.

These readings and assignments are a course prerequisite and failure to complete them will likely result in exclusion from the course. Summer reading work is worth 10% of Marking Period 1's grade. Additionally, discussions of the film and texts over the summer are encouraged, but trading of any notes or writing assignments is considered plagiarism. Any plagiarism will be pursued in accordance with school policy.

Enjoy the summer. We look forward to working with you this coming year.

Best Regards,

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